Implementation of Oasis Committee Report

2621. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the implementation of the report on the Old Age Social and Income Security Committee (OASIS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJJEE): The Report on the Old Age Social and Income Security Committee (OASIS) has been referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM) for consideration.

Inequality in income among States

†2622. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Article 38(2) of the Constitution of India, it is expected from Government to take measures to balance (minimise) the inequality in income of States;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any scheme to eliminate inequality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Article 38(2) of our Constitution provides that the state shall, in particular, strive to minimise the inequalilites in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in States, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations. Central Assistance is provided to States for their Plans as Normal Central Assistance (NCA) under Gadgil Formula, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Extrenally-Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for various Special and other Programmes for their allround enonomic development. In addition, resources from the Centre are also devolved to the States under the Awards of the Finance Commission and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

through the Central Ministries and Departments under various Central and Centrally-Sponsored Schemes.

All the above sources of financing to the States are targeted to achieve their allround balanced economic development and reduction in income inequalities between the States.

News-item, "Priest fire over Dalit marriage"

2623. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Priest fire over Dalit marriage", which appreared in the Indian Express, dated the 28th August, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a Brahmin priest was forced out of his job and home in Khazane village in goa for performing marriage of a Dalit couple in his temple;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the facts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being obtained from the Government of Goa and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rehabilitation programme for beggars

2624. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action-plan to check begging, particularly begging by children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether any rehabilitation programme is there for the beggars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?